

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. If Sinclair Broadcasting is allowed to air "Stolen Honor" it will only contribute to public cynicism and distrust of the media, big business, and our government. Who will defend democracy and the common good if not the FCC? Or will the FCC just be seen as a part of the problem?

It is time for the FCC to take a stand in defense of our freedoms. Partisan politics cannot be allowed to trample on the constitution we hold dear. Thank you.